

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6524
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 7397

MANILA PASS USADB

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, IBRD, ADB, MY
SUBJ: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFFDEL VISIT TO MALAYSIA

1. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFFERS TENNANT AND GONZALEZ WERE IN MALAYSIA FROM JULY 8 TO JULY 17 EXAMINING THE ROLE OF THE IBRD AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IN THE COUNTRY. DURING THEIR STAY THEY VISITED SEVERAL PROJECTS OF BOTH BANKS AND SAW A GOOD MIXTURE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THEY ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SEVERAL SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HOW THE GOM VIEWED THE DIFFERENT BANKS' OPERATIONS AND HOW EFFECTIVELY THE BANKS FOLLOWED UP PROJECTS ONCE THEY HAD COMMITTED FUNDS TO THEM.

2. OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST TO THE TEAM, ALTHOUGH THEY DID DOWNPLAY IT, WAS THE ROLE OF THE BANKS IN FINANCING OIL PALM PROJECTS. AFTER THEIR VISIT TO THE JENGKA TRIANGLE, HOWEVER, THEY WERE MUCH BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE ROLE OF PALM OIL IN
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THE GOM'S DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND THE FACT THAT THE MALAYSIAN'S REALLY DO NOT HAVE MANY ALTERNATIVES TO OIL PALM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LAND AREAS. JENGKA OFFICIALS HAD BOTH TEAM MEMBERS ARTIFICIALLY POLLINATE OIL PALM FLOWERS AND JOKINGLY INFORMED THEM THAT THEY WERE NOW GUILTY OF OIL PALM PRODUCTION THEMSELVES.

3. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF THE STAFFDEL WENT VERY SMOOTHLY
AND THE GOM DID A VERY EFFECTIVE JOB OF SHOWING HOW
IMPORTANT THE IFI'S ARE TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,
PARTICULARLY THE TECHNICAL SUPERVISION THAT THEY PROVIDE.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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